CABLE LETTER.

Why Mr. Gladstone Returned From the Continent—Lord Randolph Churchill's Cave.

Excitement at London County Elections—Anxiety in Regard to Greece.

Defence of Archbishop Ireland—Col. North's Ambition—Gladstonian Victory.

ELECTION EXCITEMENT IN LONDON.

LONDON, March 5.—The city is in a condition of excitement over the election of the County Council. The issues at stake are of the gravest importance. The Liberal and Radical candidates for the council are pledged to the abolition by prudence of ground rents and other measures that are highly obnoxious to the landlord element. The partizans in favor of a Radical policy in dealing with the problems of Metropolitan administration are called "Progressists." Their antagonists are content to be called "Conservatives." The Progressists demand, in addition to their form of ground rent system, the control of the police force for the county council, the regulation of water and gas, the tramways, the markets, etc. They wish in a word to have the County Council placed in the same position as the Government of an American city, without being hampered by the various divisions of authority that wrap London as in a net. The progressionists are in the majority in a majority in the present council, their number being 70 against 48 of the Tories. The landlord element has been at work for weeks to create a public sentiment adverse to the Radical candidates, and to secure the re-election, under one protext or another, of a council that will not interfere with things as they are. A notable feature of to-day's election is the active part taken by the women. Miss Emma Cons is one of the most active. She is a woman of wealth but a thoroughgoing Radical, and is a regular and welcome visitor to the homes of the poor. She was elected member of the county council for South London, and proved an earnest and useful member of that body until her seat was declared vacant by the courts. The Tories were instrumental in the steps which led to Miss Cons and Miss Cobb being declared ineligible, and it was evident, to-day, that the women rememberhd this fact. The newspapers devote whole pages to the struggle, and as the weather is favorable, an immense vote is being polled.

The results of to-day's election of the members of the London County Council, was not certain up to a late hour, this evening. The interest in the outcome, is very great. The general belief is, that the Progressives have gained the day. If so, this foreshadows a Liberal victory in London at the general elections. When a Conservative Government gave its sanction to the bill, authorizing the creation of county councils, it was believed that the Tories were assured of a small majority in the new body. Hence the insertion of a claim empowering their council to appoint 19 aldermen. This claim proved a boomerang on account of the unexpected victory of the Liberals. To-day's election was fought out wholly with a view to political capital in the general elections.

MR. GLADSTONE.

Mr. Gladstone seems to be rejuvenated by his sojourn in the south of France. Alert and sprightly in gait, he tells his friends he is a wonder to himself. With Gladstone's return, the tactics of the Opposition are changed. Sir William Vernon Harcourt's policy of trying to force dissolution by worry and obstruction has been abandoned. Mr. Gladstone hurried back owing to Harcourt not accepting instructions to refrain from appearing desirous to hasten action on the part of the Government.

Before Easter Mr. Gladstone proposes to ask the Government to declare its intention in regard to the duration of Parliament. Secure upon the result of an appeal to the country, he has advised his colleagues to give the ministers rope and let the electorate be impressed with the spectacle of the Conservative regime expiring by gradual decomposition. He looks upon the Irish bill as containing some proposals that can be ultimately embodied in the Home Rule scheme.

A CHURCHILL CAVE.

Lord Randolph Churchill forms a Tory "cave" against several proposals of the Irish local government bill, especially the clause empowering judges to suspend county councils. If he succeeds in forming a group depriving the government of fifteen votes the bill will be defeated and the moment thus made opportune for the government to dissolve parliament.

AMERICAN SCHOOLS IN TURKEY.

In the House of Commons on Friday Rt. Hon. James W. Lowther, under-secretary of the foreign office, in reply to Mr. C. Leveson Gower, Liberal M. P. for Stoke-upon-Trent, made a statement denying that the British embassy at Constantinople had agreed to the action of the Porte closing the American missionary schools. Lowther said the British representatives and the American minister to the Porte were acting in complete accord.

ANTARTIC EXPLORATION.

An experienced Scotch whaler, Captain Gray, of Peterhead, has obtained funds chiefly subscribed in Scotland, to equip two vessels for Antartic explorations. Dr. Nordenskjold, son of the well-known explorer, is the scientist of the expedition. Besides exploration, the enterprise has a financial side. It will cost to equip the vessels £24,000, but it is hoped £45,000 will be realized from oil and whalebone.

BRITISH MARTS IN THIBET.

The government of India has concluded a treaty with China as suzerain over Thibet, providing for the formation of British marts within Thibet. Under the treaty caravans will be allowed to pass freely via the passes into the Thibetan valleys, and customs stations will be created. The treaty is considered a happy stroke of British diplomacy, equivalent to the capture of the trade of these districts, which have hitherto been closed to commerce.

ANXIETY IN REGARD TO GREECE.

The Greek bondholders are more anxious than they care to acknowledge about the condition of affairs in the little kingdom. There is evidence that the press telegrams do not tell the whole story, and they are probably [subject to a critical censorship, somewhat after the fashion of St. Petersburg. Private and business advices from Athens state that the condition of affairs is extremely feverish, and that, while order prevails, there may be an outbreak at any moment. The pledge of the majority of the Boule to support the King does not amount to much, if, indeed, such a pledge has been given. The Greeks have shown in former uprisings that they are capable of considerable duplicity when they whish to lull the apprehensions of those that they are about to strike. If a conspiracy is on foot against King Giorgios, as the numerous reported arrests indicate, the conspirators are not likely to warn the King in advance.

DUKE DE ROCHEFOUCAULT.

The Duc de Rochefoucault and his bride (formerly Miss Mattie Mitchell, daughter of Senator Mitchell of Oregon) have returned to Paris from their honeymoon tour and are stopping at the Hotel Continental. It is reported that the duc's large estate at Montrait is in the market. It is one of the oldest as well as the loveliest in France, and many historical associations cluster around it. It has never been out of the Rochefoucault family. Despite all statements to the contrary it is known that the dowager duchess alone consented to the marriage, all the other member's of the duc's family opposing it, and they still refuse to receive the couple.

COL. NORTH'S AMBITION.

Col. North, the nitrate king, who has been a prominent figure in Chilian affairs, is ambitious to go to Parliament, and will probably be put up as the Tory candidate for Staffordshire. Col. North does not make much progress in a social way, his triumphs being confined to horses, dogs and nitrate, and he thinks that if he can get a seat in parliament, and be liberal enough with his millions, he may secure a peerage. This is said to be the height of his ambition. The Prince of Wales does not take kindly to him, and a story is told that when Col. North was first introduced to his Royal Highness, the Prince insisted on making him tell all about the nitrate deposits from which he derived his fortune, and this, in the presence of half a dozen Dukes and others, who richly enjoyed the confusion of the parvenu.

GLADSTONIAN VICTORY.

Mr. Evans Broad, from the Southern division of Derbyshire is a gratifying victory for the Liberals. The district is not only held, but the vote increased notwithstanding the earnest efforts of the Unionists from the, Duke of Derbyshire down to the Lord of Fort Manor, Mr. Beresford V. Melville, who was himself the Conservative candidate. Mr. Broad is a devoted follower and admirer of Mr. Gladstone, and is pledged to Irish Home Rule as well as to the Liberal programme of reform in Great Britain

DEFENSE OF ARCHBISHOP IRELAND.

The article in the Moniteur di Roma, sustaining Archbithop Ireland against his calumniators is freely commented on by ecclesiastics everywhere. Some go so far as to say that it is the most important utterance emanating from the Vatican during the present generation, and that it proclaims an entire abandonment on the part of the Church, of anything like an attitude of opposition to the progress of Republican institutions. The fact that one point of attack upon Archbishop Ireland was his liberality on the educational question, and that the Pope in the inspired, or dictated article, in the Moniteur declares that the Archbishop is in entire accordance with the views of Leo himself, is regarded as especially significant.

AN EXPLOSIVE ALTAR CANDLE.

A despatch from San Sebastien, Spain, states that a lady presented to one of the churches there a huge candle, weighing 60 pounds, to be burned during Lent. It was explained that the candle was intended to furnish light throughout the exact lenten period. The gift was suitably acknowledged in the presence of an immense congregation, and the sacristan proceeded to light the candle, but there seemed to be some fault in its construction, as the wick failed to remain alight. After three futile attempts had been made the officiating priest, becoming suspicious, that something was wrong, ordered that the candle be removed and examined. This being done, the startling discovery was made that the interior of the candle was filled with powerful explosives.

Advices, to-night, from Darmstadt, report the Grand Duke of Hesse's condition as almost hopeless. The patient passes from one fainting spell into another, and, during his conscious moments, is convulsed with fits of coughing and choking. He is unable to speak.

CABLE NEWS.

His Offer Withdrawn.

LONDON, March 5.—Henry Tate, the millionaire sugar refiner of this city, some time since offered to give the public his superb collection of paintings, and to build a gallery at a cost of £8,000, to form a so-called British Luxemburg. His condition was that the Government should purchase a certain site for the gallery at South Kensington. The Government, after several months' delay, offered Mr. Tate a different site. Yesterday Mr. Tate, in a published letter, withdrew his offer entirely, on the ground that it was not appreciated.

German Secret Service.

BERLIN, March 5.—In the Reichstag to-day a credit of 800,000 marks was agreed to be expended in secret service.

South Derbyshire Elections.

LONDON, March 5.—The Liberals carried the election in South Derbyshire. Broad, Liberal, having a majority of 1,220 over Melville, Conservative. The vacancy was caused by the death of Mr. Wardel, Liberal, who had a majority of 1,153.

Siberian Riots.

LONDON, March 6.—The Times' Vienna correspondent says riots have broken out in the Government of Tobolsk, Siberia, and Prince Galitzin has been appointed imperial commissioner to suppress them.

Smallpox in Russia.

LONDON, March 6.—A dispatch from Konighsutte, in Prussia, Silesia, reports a severe epidemic of smallpox.

The career of Louise Pomeroy, who is now playing minor parts in a traveling theatrical company, is a striking instance of the mutations of fortune. Twenty years ago she was the bride of "Brick" Pomeroy, and had received from him as a wedding gift an opera-house valued at seventy-five thousand dollars. Pomeroy at that time was reputed to be worth five hundred thousand dollars, and his *Democrat* was a gold mine. The editor's fortune was subsequently lost in unproductive mines and in the famous Rocky Mountain Tunnel, and luck has ever since been against him. Mrs. Pomeroy, is now the wife of an actor, Arthur Elliott.

Cabinet Reconstruction.

A popular topic is cabinet reconstruction, which really does not concern the public so much as the reconstruction and cleansing of the human system against the approach of spring. The premier medicine for this purpose is Burdock Blood Bitters, and both parties recognize it as the best blood purifier and general system regulator known.

PROVINCIAL NEWS.

Fruit Exhibits for the World's Fair—Seeding Operations at Port Hammond.

Railway Facilities for West Kootenay Discussed in Public Meeting.

Shipping Casualty—The Schooner Vancouver Belle Loses a Portion of Her Crew.

VANCOUVER.

VANCOUVER, March 5.—A decided improvement in all lines of business is noticeable, and business is expected to continue to improve from this date. Although collections are not quite as good as could be desired, money is not as tight as a few weeks back. Wholesale business shows a decided improvement, and merchants anticipate a good summer's business this year.

The halibut arriving by the Eliza Edwards has been purchased by Messrs. C. Edwards and R. V. Winch, and shipped east. A carload was put in ice, the utmost care being taken that it may arrive in good condition. J. B. Foley, who was for years a Gloucester fisherman, is in charge. Capt. McKenzie also intends to go East shortly to ascertain for himself the state of the Eastern markets, and learn what he can as to the best way in which to conduct the business of shipping them East. The Eliza Edwards will go out again in a few days.

The sugar ship Mount Carmel, with a cargo of 2,200 tons for the British Columbia Sugar Refinery, has arrived.

News has been received this morning of the drowning of four men of the Vancouver Belle, sealing schooner, including the first mate and the son of Capt. Copp. The particulars so far are very meagre, but there is no doubt of the loss. Mrs. Copp lies dangerously ill, and the news will undoubtedly prove fatal. The schooner was spoken off Carmanah on the 25th of February with all well.

The free library board was held this morning. It was decided to petition the council to pass a by-law for the erection of building and the establishment of a museum, etc.

Although it has been kept very quiet indeed, not even being mentioned in the local press, it has leaked out that the accounts of Mr. Andrews, who was in the employ of Bell-Irving and Patterson, and who disappeared a short time ago, are in a far from satisfactory condition. His bondsmen are among his most sincere mourners.

NEW WESTMINSTER.

NEW WESTMINSTER, March 5.—The Northfield Association Football Club have intimated that they will play Westminster on the 26th at Queen's Park in connection with the cup tie.

The new railway bridge across Pitt River is nearly finished, and the structure is pronounced to be one of very best ever built in the province. The swing is a splendid piece of work, and can be moved with the greatest ease, notwithstanding the fact that it weighs 60 tons.

Seeding has commenced at Port Hammond. On Wednesday J. Harris sowed several acres of oats and planted an acre of potatoes. Seeding is general in the vicinity, and if the past fine weather continues during the month nearly all the seed will be in the ground by the beginning of April.

The Fruit Growers' Society have decided to send an immense display of fruits to the World's Fair, at Chicago, next year, and take immediate steps to prepare for it. It will be necessary to prepare a portion of the exhibit this year. It is the intention to have bottled and preserved this summer a complete collection of all the fruits, grown in British Columbia, which will be on view at the opening. Later fresh strawberries, gooseberries, currants, raspberries, plums, peaches, prunes, apricots, apples, pears, etc., will be sent on to Chicago, as they come in season. The Society is taking this matter in hand in a thorough manner, and will make it a grand success.

The past week, although quiet in trade generally, has shown an activity in building much in advance of the corresponding period of last year. Affairs in lumber are visibly brightening. The B. C. M. T. and T. Company have completed the extension of their sash and door factory and planing mills. Under the management of the Fruit Growers' Association steps have been taken to start a factory for the manufacture of fruit baskets of all sizes, and to induce the Governments and the Municipalities to assist the manufacture of fertilizers from offal of fish, which in past years has been wasted. The city has secured the grant of an island in the Fraser river, at the mouth of the Coquitlam, containing about five acres, on which will be built a magazine for the storage of various explosives handled by the trade.

NANAIMO.

NANAIMO, March 5.—Several cases of diptheria have broken out at the Union Mines, one case proving fatal. Several families have gone to Denman Island for a time, to avoid the contagion.

The Young Ladies' Christian Endeavor Society of the Presbyterian Church, held a reception, last evening, at the Foresters' Hall. The members of the Y.M.C.A. Football and Bicycle Club attended, and a pleasant time was enjoyed.

Several members of the Nanaimo Myrtle Lodge K. of P., visited Wellington, last evening, on invitation of the Wellington K. of P. A most enjoyable time was spent.

Sailed, s.s. Costa Rica.

NELSON.

NELSON, B.C., via Seattle, Wash., March 5.—At a public meeting held at Nelson, to-day, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

"Whereas, the section of the province known as Kootenay Lake country, a section where the one industry, mining, if developed, would add materially to the wealth of the whole province;

"And whereas, the development of that industry is not only greatly retarded, but made oppressively expensive by the closing of all transportation routes for from four to five months in the year;

"And whereas relief can only be brought about by the building of railways that will connect the mining camps in the lake country with railway systems already in operation to the north and to the south;

"And whereas, the immediate construction of such connection depends to a great extent on Provincial and Dominion legislation;

"Therefore be it resolved that it is the sense of the people of the Nelson mining district, of West Kootenay, that the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia will be acting in the best inte ests of the people of the province if reasonable aid is extended to railway companies that will guarantee the building of these connections at an early day; provided, however, that the aid extended is not grants of land, other than alternate sections, of not to exceed 5,000 acres to the mile, such sections in all cases to be taken from lands lying along the line of railway so built, and that the right to the minerals in the lands granted, as well as the surface rights allowed under the provision of the mineral and placer acts, shall remain vested in the crown; and

"Be it further resolved that any and every such railway so aided and making Nelson a terminal point, be granted the right of way and terminal grounds, through and in the government townsite of Nelson, so that such railway or railways will be on an equal footing with railways previously built with the aid of grants of land from the province; and

"Be it further resolved, that a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to Mr. Kellie, the member in the Legislative Assembly for the West Kootenay district, with the request that he present them to the Assembly and take such individual action as will most speedily bring about the desired result."

The Miner.

On examining the records at Nelson, no such claim as the "Silver Prince" was found. A company was organized in Spokane to work it.

Mr. Fitzstubbs, who at one time was the de jure government agent in West Kootenay, is reported to be in San Francisco for medical treatment. The people here would like to see a de facto agent appointed.

Pat Noonan, from Pilot Bay, reports the timber of the outer wharf at the smelter site nearly all in place; when all in, work will then be commenced on the inner wharf. Work is also being done on the boarding-house and office. The store building for the Galena Trading Company is well under way. About thirty men are employed.

But little is definitely known as to when navigation on either the Columbia or Kootenay rivers will be resumed. The Columbia is between four and five feet lower than when the Lytton stopped running, last fall, and is still falling. When at Little Dalles recently, Captain Troup is reported as saying that the Lytton would be in thorough repair by the 12th of March, and that she would be able to run up to Robson with eighteen inches more water than what was then in the river. Other steamboatmen doubt whether the Lytton has sufficient power to be able to make the run over the rapids in low water. Men are removing obstructions to navigation at Rock Island and at Tincup rapids. The track of the Columbia & Kootenay will be all right at any time after the management is notified that the steamboat is ready to make regular trips. On the Kootenay, the ice is solid for long stretches, and the Spokane is not likely to leave her wharf at Bonner's Ferry earlier than the 20th of March.

In making appropriations for West Kootenay district, the government should make a lump appropriation for roads, bridges and trails. A road or trail that may appear necessary in mid-winter may not be needed in mid-summer, when the funds are available; and in mid-summer roads and trails that were not thought of in mid-winter may be actually needed. There is nothing sectional in this way of dealing with appropriations, and no money is expended on works that are not actually needed. The same is true in a great measure as regards appropriations for public buildings. While Nelson is now the most important town in the district and its center of population, some other town may be more central within a year. In fact, it is debatable whether the present division of Kootenay is the best that could be made. Kootenay district should be made into two districts whose dividing line should be an east and west one, not a north and south one. The population of the northern portion of Kootenay is mainly in the towns along the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, only a small percentage being in the settlements and mining camps to the south of Golden. Donald is near the centre of the district, and already is well provided with government buildings—and officials. The bulk of the population of the southern portion of Kootenay is in the mining towns and camps on Kootenay Lake, Nelson probably being as near the centre of population as any other point, and the most accessible.

The Silver King tunnel has recently advanced about eight feet, and is now in over 800 feet. A vein of ore about a foot wide was struck on the south side, the ore being similar to that in the big ore body on the north of and parallel with the tunnel. This indicates that the Kootenay Bonanza ground contains what many claim, the largest deposit of ore on Toad mountain. The face of the tunnel is in the Kootenay Bonanza and over 350 feet below the surface. Small stringers of ore are showing up in the Grizzly tunnel. The ore body of the Dandy drift contains about the same width and of the same grade. Work will be commenced on Monday on the Silver Queen, the claim recently sold to a Montreal company. John Robertson, of the Grizzly, will act as superintendent until spring.

Some of the Ainsworth boys who are wintering at Spokane will come back afoot in the spring, if reports from that city are to be believed. They went out loaded to the guards with Slocan claims and good intentions; now they have little left except faint recollections of the good intentions. The old, old causes brought about this sad result.

JAPANESE JOTTINGS.

Political Excitement at Fever Heat — The Earthquakes Still Continue.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 5.—According to advices received by S.S. City of Peking, which arrived from Hongkong and Yokohama, this afternoon, political excitement in Japan was at fever heat when the vessel sailed. In the provinces, there have been many collisions between the constituents of the different parties, in which swords, pistols and sticks were freely used. The meetings have been broken up and the agitators severely handled Many people have been wounded, and arrests by wholesale have taken place. As an instance of the bitter feeling the following may be given: A steamer, carrying about forty members of one of the parties, attempted to land her passengers at Sagon, but a body of their opponents, numbering several hundred, met them with ball cartridges. The vessel started for Shimoda, where she met a similar reception. It was found necessary to return to Suzaki, whence she had started.

From two to six earthquake shocks continue to be felt daily, in the localities where the great earthquake was felt last October.

HALIFAX, Nov. 5.—W. B. Reynolds & Co., hardware merchants, have assigned with liabilities $55,000 and assets about the same.

ORANGEVILLE, Nov. 5.—The Grand jury in the case of Wm. Shinnawain, charged with the murder of John A. Montgomery, at Hockley, in October last, have returned a no bill.

OUR OTTAWA LETTER.

Increased Ministerial Strength During the Recess—Liberal Setbacks—Government Successes.

The Grit Scandal Mill at Work—Matters of Interest to British Columbia.

Interesting Figures Regarding the Pacific Cable—A Subject for This Session.

(From our own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, Feb. 27.—Once again the revolutions of Time's wheel have brought us to the Parliamentary session. Less than five months have elapsed since the representatives of the people were dismissed to their homes; but there is little fear of such a brief interregnum between the close of the present session and the opening of the next one. Much has happened in those five months. The session itself was one of the most tedious on record. The Government—some hold mistakenly, others, justifiably—gave the Opposition lots of rope, and they tugged at it to the utmost of their power. The general impression is now, that the Grits got so hopelessly tangled up in that rope, that to-day their party, as a party, is in a complete state of demoralization. The hanging process has been going on since the beginning of January, culminating this week in the death blow to Grit hopes. In short, the Opposition has so disgusted the country in reference to the alleged scandals of last session that that weapon has acted as a boomerang, and aided in the complete rout of the Liberals. This, indeed, has been a great week for the Conservative party, and the pæans of victory which went up in the House on Thursday and yesterday, when the new Conservative members were introduced, will be redoubled when the victors of this week take their places in the Commons Chamber. If Hon. J. C. Patterson had been unsuccessful in West Huron, on Tuesday, a seat would have been found for him in the Senate; but he would not have had a tithe of the influence and prestige which attaches to him to-day as the conqueror of the notorious M. C. Cameron. It was a courageous act upon Mr. Patterson's part to tackle nearly 400 of a majority; but no one can say that J. C. Patterson lacks pluck, and he has shown to the people of Canada the kind of stuff of which he is made.

Although your readers may perhaps hardly realize it, the victory in East Simcoe was a tremendous surprise to the Conservatives. Two weeks ago Mr. Bennett had not a single committee organized in the riding. He is a young man possessing considerable energy, but has the unhappy knack of running counter to his friends, with the result that those who should have been rendering him valuable assistance, worked indifferently, or else held aloof altogether. Fortunately the breach was healed in time, but it seemed almost hopeless to expect that the constituency could be redeemed; nevertheless, the riding has given Mr. Bennett a majority of 34, as against the total of 207 accorded to Dr. Sponn, last March. Then, yesterday, there came the news of the victory of the good, honest John Carling in London, despite the Reform blandishments of pickled pigs' feet and beer, and any quantity of money; and not less significant is Mr. Hearn's election in Quebec West. People may well wonder what is the cause of this complete political revolution which is now in progress. The matter was well put to me to-day by a gentleman who is has been out of politics for 20 years, but who still watches passing events with a good deal of interest, when he said that this series of Conservative victories was not due so much to the popularity of the Ministry itself, whatever that may be, as to the utter distrust of the country (which is loyal to the core) of the pro-American tendencies of Cartwright, Laurier and Farrer. It is clearly evident, he said, that the feeling of the country, as manifested in these by-elections is evidently on the lines of Edward Blake's manifesto to the electors of West Durham, a year ago, when, in substance, he pointed out that the policy of unrestricted reciprocity must inevitably lead to annexation.

SESSIONAL PROSPECTS.

It was remarked that not for a good many years had there been such a small muster of members in the House on the opening day of the session as there was on Thursday. Your readers can well understand the cause of this. The provincial elections now in progress in Quebec will keep a number of members busy there until the 8th of March, and it is not likely that much work will be done in Parliament until after those elections are decided. I do not suppose, however, that the country will suffer anything, because as a rule it takes a week or ten days to get everything in working order—committees struck, organized, etc. There is a general feeling that the present session will be a short one, but after the experience of 1891 it is no use prognosticating. Mr. Laurier, in his good natured way, remarked to me yesterday, when I asked him what he thought of the prospects, that there was not a great deal in the speech to keep Parliament engaged more than three months, but one can never tell what may turn up. The Grits say they have another batch of scandals to investigate, but some of the wiser heads in the party think it will be better to leave the policy of mud-slinging alone. They had enough of it last year to last them for three or four years, and to attempt to influence the country at the present time would be futile and tantamount to throwing away good ammunition when no fight is in progress.

The important position which British Columbia is beginning to occupy in the politics of the Dominion is evidenced by the fact that three paragraphs in the speech deal with matters which are essentially of interest to your people. They are the Behring Sea question, the Alaska Boundary and the Salmon Fisheries Commission. In reference to the first named topic, the correspondence just presented to the Legislature of British Columbia bears out what I said, last session, when Hon. Mr. Robson was in Ottawa, that he had left no stone unturned then and previously to impress upon the federal authorities the importance of their urging for a speedy settlement of this long pending difficulty. Before another year is over it is hoped that the award of the arbitrators will have been given and that the sealers of B. C. will have obtained justice. With reference to the boundary question, your readers are well aware of the action which our Government has taken within the past few years in endeavoring to obtain a delimitation of the boundary line. A mass of information on the subject has been collected by Dr. G. M. Dawson, Mr. Wm. Ogilvie and Mr. Otto Klotz. I will say this for Mr. Dewdney that, as one who knows British Columbia intimately, he, at the outset of his occupancy of the Interior Department, recognized the importance of this subject and caused the despatch of the Yukon expedition over three years ago. As a result of his foresight Canada is, perhaps, better prepared with her armament than the United States for the issue of a commission to determine the boundary. In regard to the salmon fishery commission, it is gratifying to know that it has got to work, and it is hoped, as a result of the evidence which they will take, and the conclusions at which they arrive, that it will prove satisfactory not only to those engaged in the canning industry, but also to the people of the Province who are also interested in the preservation of this great natural source of food supply.

THE TRANS-PACIFIC CABLE.

I had a long and interesting chat, this morning, with Mr. F. W. Gisborne, Superintendent of Government telegraphs, in reference to the proposed C. P. R. cable from Victoria to Japan. Mr. Gisborne stated that, 20 years ago, he had projected a cable to the country of the Mikado, and it was a source of great gratification to him to know that it was within measurable distance of being realized. Three schemes for a trans Pacific electric telegraph are to-day before the public—one *via* the Northern route, Victoria to the Aleutian Islands and thence to Japan; the second or Central route, from Victoria or San Francisco to the Sandwich Islands and thence to Japan, and the third, *via* the Southern route from Victoria to the Sandwich Islands, thence to the Fiji Islands and Brisbane, Australia. The first is that which the C.P.R. will probably adopt; the second is the one in respect of which certain United States parties have been figuring for a long time past, while the third is that advocated by the Australian colonies and by Mr. Sandford Fleming, C.M.G. In every case where these cables start from British Columbia territory, they would commence at Sooke Bay, near Victoria, so that the Provincial capital may be practically considered as the headquarters of these great enterprises. The distance from Sooke Bay to Unimak Island, one of the Aleutians, is estimated at 1,500 nautical miles; thence to Attu Island, 800 miles, thence to Japan 1,300 miles, or a total of 3,600. From Japan to Manilla, thence to New Guinea, thence to Port Darwin, is 3,000 nautical miles, or a distance of 6,600 miles in all, to Australia. via C. P. R. cable to Japan, as against 6,750 miles for the cable via Honolulu and Fiji Islands direct to Australia. The projected U. S. cable via San Francisco to Honolulu thence to Japan is 5,950 miles. Mr. Gisborne estimates the cost of construction at $950 per nautical mile laid. The relative cost of the several for a single connecting line are as follows:

Northern route via the Aleutian Islands to Japan, $3,850,400.

Central route via the Sandwich Islands to Japan. $6,330,800.

Northern route via Japan to Australia, $7,022,400.

Southern route via Sandwich Islands to Australia, $7,182,000.

Mr. Gisborne states that experience shows that a single series of cables is totally inadequate to maintain uninterrupted communication through such vast distances, and for this reason alone, double the above expenditure of capital must be anticipated. The risk of damage from abrasion, via the Southern and Central Pacific routes, he believes is exceptionally great, on account of the numerous coral reefs and coral bound islands, which rise precipitously from the profound depths of the ocean, whereas, the Northern Pacific, so far as known is entirely free from such dangers; both soundings and bottom being similar to those of the Northern Atlantic submarine cable routes. The commercial advantages attendant upon telegraphic connection, via the Northwest route, which is the shortest and cheapest to the more important markets, are indisputable. During the past year, Canadian trade with China and Japan, has progressed by leaps and bounds, and the advantage of our being closely connected by telegraph, with 400,000,000 of people, cannot be gainsaid. Mr. Gisborne estimates that the present rates of $2.21 per word from China to Japan via India and Singapore, could be reduced to 75 cents per word. It is understood that the Canadian Pacific will lose no time in organizing a company for the purpose of carrying out the project, and it is probable that Parliament, during the present session, will be asked to assent to such a measure.

VANCOUVER.

VANCOUVER, March 5.—John Donahue got two months at hard labor for selling liquor to an Indian woman.

The Catholic Young Men's institute held a debate, last night. Is education or weath the more beneficial to young men? Education won the day.

Chas. Kane had a finger cut of in the jointer of Robertson and Hackett's factory, yesterday.

J. C. Douglas' liquor store was entered by burglars, last night, the safe was blown open and $400 worth of jewelry, in a strong box, untouched; $11, however, were secured from the till.

A letter arrived, to-day, from the Vancouver Belle, brought by the ship Mount Carmel. The mate, H. R. Turner, was out in a stern boat, on March 3rd, with Harvey Copp, when he fell overboard, and although Copp twice dived after him, was drowned. On the second attempt Turner seized Copp by the legs, but the latter managed to get away. Copp was unconscious 12 hours from his exertions.

WINNIPEG WIRINGS.

WINNIPEG, March 5.—President Andrews, of the Manitoba Methodist Conference, threatens to prosecute one Fawcett, an alleged Methodist clergyman of the United States, who has been officiating at weddings in the Lake Dauphin district. All the marriages were made at the wish of the contracting parties.

A milk combine is the latest business enterprise for Winnipeg. The company proposes to buy out all the small dealers.

BRANDY AND INFLUENZA.

The announcement that "Lady Brooke's Fund for the Relief of the Distress from Influenza" had commenced proceedings by distributing 2,000 bottles of brandy is picturesque, but alarming. It is highly suggestive to the comic cartoonist. If this rate of distribution is to be continued, and to extend throughout the kingdom, the remedy is likely to be worse than the disease. Why these oceans of so-called brandy? Sound cognac is hardly to be had now, even at fancy prices. Will not the encouragement of free drinking and the encouragement of the wretched habit of flying to the bottle as a panacea for ordinary ailments tend to increase precisely that distress which this ill-judged bounty aims at alleviating? If this be Lady Brooke's way of doing good, it would be just as well that she should not multiply the mischief by holding up her example to the world in communications to the public press.—British Medical Journal.

CANADIAN NEWS.

Quebec Election Prospects—Anticipations of a Coalition—Extensive Business Amalgamation.

Sugar Combine in Danger—More About the Behring Sea Arbitration.

Another Arbitration Rumor.

OTTAWA, March 5.—Nothing is known here respecting the alleged appointment of an English insurance man to the position of arbitrator in connection with the proposed Behring Sea arbitration. The report is believed to be entirely unfounded. As previously stated, the arbitrators must be jurists of high standing in their respective countries, thus shutting out insurance agents. There is an opinion that Canada will appoint a French Canadian to represent Canada. The proceedings of the conference will be held in Paris, and conducted in the French language.

To Regulate Lobster Fishing.

OTTAWA, March 5.—It is proposed to regulate the methods of lobster fishing, and place the lobster fishery of the maritime provinces under license.

Sugar Combine in Danger.

MONTREAL, March 5.—The sugar refiners met, yesterday, in the Canada Sugar Refinery, all the refineries being represented except the Woodside Refinery, Halifax. The refiners met, ostensibly to consider the grading of yellow sugar, but it is said the chief theme was the danger which now threatened the sugar combine. Granulated sugar is now selling at 4⅝c. per pound, less 10 per cent. for cash.

Killed on the Track.

KINGSTON, March 5.—A Grand Trunk brakeman, Charles Quackson, while walking along the track at Kingston junction, was struck by an engine and killed.

Mercier Wants Damages.

QUEBEC, March 5.—Actions for libel have been taken out on behalf of Mr. Mercier against Amedee Lessier, of St. Casimir, and Arsene Chalifoux, demanding $20,000 damages from each of them for alleged slanderous statements made by them in connection with the recent disclosures in this province.

Will there be a Coalition?

MONTREAL, March 5.—The Star refers to the Independents as "loose fish," and advises the electors not to vote for them unless they pledge themselves not only to oppose Mercier but to support De Boucherville. It is within the possibilities that the so-called "loose fish" will hold the balance of power between Mercier and De Boucherville, and as they are for the most part of good character and ability, this would not be the worst thing that could happen to the province. A coalition composed of the best men of all parties and strong enough to resist the demands of boodlers and corrupationists upon the public purse would be a blessing to Quebec.

Bitter Wound by a Friend.

MONTREAL, March 5.—Repudiations of Mercier are coming in from all sides. The latest is Dr. De Grosbois, the Liberal candidate in Shefford, who, while addressing a meeting at Waterloo, said that if Mr. Mercier fails, after a fair trial, to establish his innocence, he cannot longer lead the Liberal party.

Effect of Quebec Elections.

TORONTO, March 5.—The Globe says: "The general elections, which will take place on Tuesday, may have important results, not only for Quebec but for the Dominion, for there is, unhappily, a close connection between Federal and Provincial finances.

Wounded with a Razor.

SARNIA, March 5.—Maud Collins cut George Kyle with a razor, probably fatally. Both are 22, and members of the Kyle gang.

Montmorenci Nomination.

QUEBEC, March 5.—In Montmorenci, A. J. Turcotte, Conservative, and Joseph Dussault, Liberal, were nominated to the Commons.

Dropped Dead.

TORONTO, May 5.—John Brown, a demented butcher, of St. Lawrence market, at one time celebrated for his strength, but ruined by drink, dropped dead.

Business Amalgamation.

TORONTO, March 5.—The firms of Ferguson, Alexander & Co., and William Johnson & Co., both of Montreal, and A. G. Puchen & Co., Toronto, all large paint manufacturers have been amalgamated under the name of the Canadian Paint Co., Limited.

Satisfactory Payments.

TORONTO, March 5.—On the whole payments here yesterday were met satisfactorily, and bankers and merchants unite in predicting a successful business season.

Grand Jury Roll Reduced.

TORONTO, March 5.—The Hon. the Commissioner of Crown Lands has introduced into the legislature a bill to reduce the number of grand jurors to thirteen.

Burned to Death.

SHELBURNE, March 5.—The four year old daughter of Robt. Kitchen, of Redickville, was burned to death by the explosion of a can of coal oil.

London Election.

LONDON, Nov. 5.—An application was made to Judge Elliott, on behalf of Mr. Hyman for judgment on the appealed votes. The judge said he was not prepared to give judgment, but would prepare his decision in writing.

Quebec Election Prospects.

MONTREAL, March 5.—The chances of Mr. Mercier's success are now very slight. Premier De Boucherville has now nine supporters elected by acclamation, and Mr. Mercier only one. The latter's supporters have issued a circular to their friends in the New England States, calling on them to return and vote for him, but it is expected the Independent Liberal element in the province will effect his defeat. La Minerve claims that the De Boucherville Government, besides dividing the district of Quebec, will take five divisions of Three Rivers, and secure an enormous majority in the Montreal district and Eastern townships. Mr. Champagne (Mercierite), has resigned in the county of Two Mountains, thus electing Beauchamp, Conservative, by acclamation.